



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
William R. Massey, Chairman

www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403
Phone: (877) 721-9203 (toll free) • Office: (707) 576-2220 • FAX: (707) 523-0135



Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

March 17, 2006

Ms. Gail Popham
CDOT Eureka
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Ms. Popham:

Subject: Issuance of Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification) for the Highway 299 Culvert Rehabilitation Project from Post Mile 8.75 to 9.05

File: CDOT – Hwy 299, Culvert Rehab, P.M. 8.75-9.05
WDID No. 1B05124WNHU

This Order by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board), is being issued pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341), in response to your request, on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (applicant), for Water Quality Certification for activities related to the Highway 299 culvert rehabilitation project between Post Mile 8.75 and 9.05, Humboldt County. On September 8, 2005, the Regional Water Board received your application and a \$500.00 processing fee. On February 22, 2006, we deemed the application complete and posted information describing the project on the Regional Water Board's website for a 21-day public review and comment period. We did not receive any comments on this project.

Project Description: The project is located along a section of Highway 299 where subsurface water causes chronic slumping of the highway. The highway continues to develop cracks and the surface has to be frequently repaved to address safety concerns. In order to relieve the chronic slumping problem, approximately 600 feet of rock lined drainage ditches will be created and a 300-foot long underdrain will be installed along the uphill side of the highway. The underdrain will convey subsurface water into existing watercourses that are culverted under the highway. The underdrain will be placed in an excavated trench about 50 feet west of the highway. The trench will be eight to twelve feet deep. Perforated pipe will be installed in the trench and the trench will be backfilled with permeable material. All excess excavated material will be used onsite.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Recycled Paper

The new rock-lined ditches will be installed about 100 feet from the edge of the existing pavement on the uphill side of the highway. The rock-lined ditches will be up to 2 feet deep and are designed to intercept water that flows towards the highway from small ponds located above the highway. No more than two trees with a diameter greater than 6 inches will be removed in order to install the ditches. All disturbed areas will be replanted with native plants. The project shall not cause any disturbance to the small ponds located above the highway. High visibility fencing shall be installed around the pond area prior to construction to protect the ponds and to prevent entry into the area during construction activities.

Three existing culverts that cross under the highway in the project area will be rehabilitated. Activities related to culvert rehabilitation include removal of the single flared end sections on each culvert inlet and installation of concrete headwalls. A plastic liner will also be inserted through the 42-inch culvert at Post Mile 8.85 and a rock energy dissipater will be installed at the outlet of the 32-inch culvert located at Post Mile 8.75. The perennial stream that flows through the 42-inch culvert will be diverted around the culvert during liner installation activities. Herbaceous riparian vegetation around the culvert inlets and outlets will be temporarily impacted by headwall installation, rock energy dissipater installation, and dewatering activities. Upland shrubs will be temporarily impacted to access the outlet area of the culvert located at Post Mile 8.85.

Approximately 0.01 acre of streambed will be temporarily impacted for construction access. Approximately 63 square feet (0.0014 acre) of streambed will be permanently impacted by the addition of rock energy dissipaters at a culvert outlet and an area where the proposed drainage ditch will enter an existing stream channel. The project will not affect wetlands.

Receiving Waters:	Unnamed tributaries to the North Fork Mad River in the North Fork Mad River Hydrologic Area No. 109.20
Latitude/Longitude:	40.892N/123.936W
Filled or Excavated Area:	Area Temporarily Impacted: 0.01 acre of stream channel Area Permanently Impacted: 63 square feet (0.0014 acre) of stream channel
Federal Permit:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Nos. 3 and 33
Compensatory Mitigation:	None
Noncompensatory Mitigation:	Noncompensatory mitigation shall include the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for heavy equipment use near

California Environmental Protection Agency

waterways and for sediment and turbidity control. The applicant has applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game.

CEQA Compliance: The California Department of Transportation, as the lead agency for CEQA, determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment, and is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class 1, Section 15301).

Standard Conditions: Pursuant to Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3860 (23 CCR 3860), the following three standard conditions shall apply to this project:

- 1) This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section 13330 of the California Water Code and 23 CCR 3867.
- 2) This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
- 3) The validity of any nondenial certification action (actions 1 and 2) shall be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required under 23 CCR 3833, unless otherwise stated in writing by the certifying agency.

Additional Conditions: Pursuant to 23 CCR 3859(a), the applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

- 1) The applicant shall notify the Regional Water Board in writing at least five working days (working days are Monday – Friday) prior to the commencement of the project, with details regarding the schedule of operations, to allow staff the opportunity to be present onsite and to answer any public inquiries that may arise regarding the project.
- 2) All conditions listed in this Water Quality Certification must be included in the Plans and Specifications prepared by the applicant for the Contractor. All conditions shall be implemented according to the submitted application and this

Water Quality Certification.

- 3) A copy of this permit must be provided to the contractor and all subcontractors conducting the work, and a copy must be in their possession at the work site. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the contractor and all subcontractors are provided a copy of this permit.
- 4) Adequate BMPs for sediment and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place prior to, during, and after construction in order to ensure that no silt or sediment enters surface waters.
- 5) If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface waters occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the project shall cease immediately and Regional Water Board staff shall be notified promptly.
- 6) No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete washings, oil or petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature, other than that authorized by this permit, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the State.
- 7) When operations are completed, any excess material or debris shall be removed from the work area and disposed of properly. No rubbish shall be deposited within 150 feet of the high water mark of any stream.
- 8) If construction dewatering is found to be necessary, the applicant will use a method of water disposal other than disposal to surface waters (such as land disposal) or the applicant shall apply for coverage under the General Construction Dewatering Permit and receive notification of coverage to discharge to surface waters.
- 9) Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage and staging of vehicles and equipment shall be outside of waters of the United States. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage and staging of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the United States. At no time shall the applicant use any vehicle or equipment, which leaks any substance that may impact water quality.

- 10) Project activities shall comply with provisions in the North Coast Region Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan).
- 11) The project site may be visited and assessed by Regional Water Board staff to document compliance with this certification.
- 12) All activities, BMPs, and associated mitigation will be conducted as described in this Permit and the application submitted by the applicant for this project.
- 13) This Order is not transferable. In the event of any change in control of ownership of land presently owned or controlled by the applicant, the applicant shall notify the successor-in-interest of the existence of this Order by letter and shall forward a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board at the above address.

To discharge dredged or fill material under this Order, the successor-in-interest must send to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer a written request for transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, address, and telephone number of the person(s) responsible for contact with the Regional Water Board. The request must also describe any changes to the Project proposed by the successor-in-interest or confirm that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the Project as described in this Order.

Water Quality Certification: I hereby issue an order [23 CCR Subsection 3831(e)] certifying that any authorized discharge from the Highway 299, Culvert Rehabilitation Project between Post Mile 8.75 and 9.05, (Facility No. 1B05124WNHU) will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 ("Effluent Limitations"), 302 ("Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations"), 303 ("Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans"), 306 ("National Standards of Performance"), and 307 ("Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards") of the Clean Water Act [33 USC Subsection 1341 (a)(1)], and with other applicable requirements of State law. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003 - 0017 - DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification.

Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicant's project description, and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Regional Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

Expiration: The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on October 31, 2008. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this certification are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

Please notify Dean Prat of our staff at (707) 576-2801 prior to construction (pursuant to Additional Condition No. 1 above) so that we can answer any public inquiries about this project.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

031606_DLP_hwy299culverts401cert.doc

Enclosure:

State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017 - DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification"

cc: Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions, 333 Market Street,
San Francisco, CA 94599
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, P.O. Box 4863, Eureka, CA 95502